

Meta Definitions For Verbs

Defining Verbs with a Metalinguistic
Focus

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Definition Formats for Verbs

The term "target word" in the following formats designates the words you are aiming to define.

Format 1: (Target Word) means to (Synonym)

For your synonym, you can use an individual word, such as these two examples:

"Comprehend means to **understand**."

"Speak means to **talk**."

It is also appropriate to use a synonymous verb phrase in the "synonym" field, such as:

"Applaud means to **clap your hands**."

"Illustrate means to **create pictures**."

Format 2: (Target Word) means to (Synonym + Adverb)

You may need to add an adverb or adverbial phrase after your synonym. Here are some examples with adverbs:

"Sprint means to **run fast**."

"Stroll means to **walk slowly**."

(synonymous verbs=run, walk; adverbs=fast, slowly)

Your synonym or synonymous verb phrase may also require an adverbial phrase. Here are examples:

"Nodding means to shake your head **up and down**."

"Swimming means to propel yourself **through the water**."

(synonymous verb phrases="shake your head", "propel yourself"; adverbial phrases="up and down", "through the water")

Quick Rules for Meta Definitions

- Use the following templates to model and teach definitions of verbs. You can use them as printable worksheets or laminate them for repeated use.
- This format can be used for many different verbs, from common to vivid.
- It is possible to compose a correct definition without explicitly using the preposition *to*, such as in the sentence, "Sprinting means you're running fast". These types of responses are acceptable.
- Other formats for defining verbs exist; these templates provide one method helpful for teaching individuals the necessary information needed to define words.

means to

(target word)

(synonym)

_____ means to

(target word)

_____ (synonym + adverb)

_____ ■
*Use this last line for any information that does not fit on the previous line.